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**SUBJECT: SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY APPROVES RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION
TO THE PERIPHERAL CANAL, OR OTHER ISOLATED WATER
CONVEYANCE FACILITY IN THE DELTA**

On September 28, 2006, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger established the Delta Vision Committee, a Blue Ribbon Task Force and a Stakeholder Coordination Group to help develop a Delta vision and strategic plan to ensure its future and long-term sustainability. This Delta Visioning Process has progressed to the point where the Coordination Group recently submitted a Preliminary Recommendations Report that includes two primary options, the Flexible Delta and the Resilient Adaptive Delta. While this effort has outlined possible approaches that may help the Delta to meet future beneficial use demands, it also revives and calls for studies, modeling and investigations into the benefits of an isolated water conveyance facility, or Peripheral Canal.

San Joaquin County (County) has long been concerned about the possible impacts of the construction of a Peripheral Canal, or similar isolated water transfer facility to carry Sacramento River water around the Delta to State and Federal pumps. In 1982, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a Resolution opposing the authorization, funding and construction of what was then the proposed Peripheral Canal, as authorized by then Senate Bill 200, and urged a "No" vote on Proposition 9 at the June 1982 election. This position was again reasserted by additional actions taken by the Board in 1992, and again 1998, during the CALFED Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Hearings.

The construction and operation of a Peripheral Canal, or a similar facility, would require the taking of prime agricultural land and possible urban areas for the construction of the canal itself; the loss of additional acreage from seepage from that canal will cause severance damage to additional prime agricultural land; will sever and impair utilities and local road systems; will create significant new flood dangers to agricultural lands and urban areas in the County; will adversely affect the water rights of water users within this County and potentially surrounding Counties; will circumvent the Delta common pool; and will seriously impair Delta water quality and an adequate supply for all beneficial uses; and the protection of fish, wildlife, and other recreational resources within this County.

The County's response to this effort has been participation in and support for a Water Plan developed by our South and Central Delta Water Agencies that looks to greater regional self-sufficiency as an answer to the water demands of the 21st Century. In this Water Plan for the 21st Century it states, *"As the population of California continues to grow, the imbalance intensifies between the demands for water supplies in the primarily arid regions growing the fastest and the regions where water supplies originate, whose needs for their local supplies also grow. Sooner or later California must unshackle itself from dependence upon distant transfers of water from North to South, especially during periods of least supply (dry years) when water presently exported is often not surplus to the needs in the north, and develop regional self sufficiency."*

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Greater regional self-sufficiency has been the primary focus of the State's efforts to support the development of Integrated Regional Water Management, and the County supports the State's effort to find regional solutions to water supply needs. However, San Joaquin County cannot support water plans that propose project alternatives that will lead to severe unmitigatable impacts to our urban communities, vital agricultural economy and the Delta. The Water Plan for the 21st Century further states, *"Proposals to build Peripheral Canals do not address the need to find better water to balance the supply-demand equation, they merely redistribute the deficiency in the current system to the areas in which the waters originate, and to the environment. The solution cannot be found without looking beyond the Delta. We can, and must, do better especially as we face significant changes in the earth's climate which threaten to greatly aggravate these problems."* The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors formally endorsed this Water Plan on September 11, 2007, and has again reaffirmed its opposition to the development of a Peripheral Canal, or other isolated water conveyance facility, by Resolution at our Board of Supervisors meeting held on September 18, 2007 (see enclosures).

To summarize, in an era when so much focus has centered on the restoration and enhancement of the Delta, together with emphasis on development of Integrated Regional Water Management, it seems prudent that discussions and actions of the Partnership should look to find those water resource strategies of a more regional focus such as increased conjunctive use, rather than the inopportune resurrection and perpetuation of historically divisive project alternatives such as the Peripheral Canal.

I urge (Agency) to join San Joaquin County in opposing the development of the Peripheral Canal, that you endorse the concepts outlined in Water Plan for the 21st Century, and that we stand together on this critical water issue.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this issue further, please contact me at (209) 468-3113, or Dr. Mel Lytle, Water Resource Coordinator, at (209) 468-3089.

Sincerely,

VICTOR MOW
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
County of San Joaquin

VM:CML
WR-71086-R3

Enclosures

c: Agencies
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors
T. R. Flinn, Director of Public Works
Thomas M. Gau, Chief Deputy Director
Mel Lytle, Ph.D., Water Resource Coordinator